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Canada. National Health and Welfare, Dept. of
Research Division
General series Memorandum

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE,

(8) OTHERS' ALLOWANCES, AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE

AGED IN CANADA, 1958, 1959, 1960, AND 1961

MEMORANDUM NO. 18

GENERAL SERIES



RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

OTTAWA

APRIL, 1962

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE,
MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES, AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE
AGED IN CANADA, 1958, 1959, 1960, AND 1961

Published by the Authority of
The Honourable J. Waldo Monteith
Minister of National Health and Welfare

Memorandum No. 18, General Series

Research and Statistics Division
Department of National Health and Welfare

Ottawa

April, 1962



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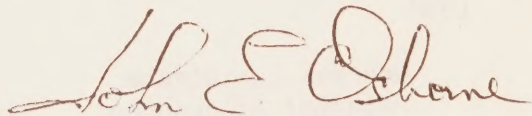
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FOREWORD

The four articles in this bulletin cover major legislative changes in general assistance, mothers' allowances, and living accommodation for the aged, during the years 1958, 1959, 1960, and 1961. First published as annual reviews in the Labour Gazette, they are brought together to meet the many requests for information on developments in these fields. The bulletin forms a companion volume to our recent report on changes in child welfare legislation.

The sections on general assistance and mothers' allowances were prepared by Miss Ruth Brown and those on living accommodation for the aged by Miss Blanche Borkovic, under the general direction of Mrs. Flora Hurst, Supervisor of the Welfare Section of this Division.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John E. Osborne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John E. Osborne, Director,
Research and Statistics Division.

1. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE,
MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES, AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED,
NOVEMBER, 1960, TO DECEMBER, 1961, INCLUSIVE.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Major legislative changes were made in general assistance in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and minor changes in Newfoundland and Manitoba.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Under the Regulations gazetted December 12, 1961, some changes were made in the amount of social assistance which may be granted to a person towards repairs and renovations of his home. The Social Assistance Board may, as formerly, grant a person in any one year an amount not in excess of \$240 for this purpose, but a new provision permits an aggregate of such grants of up to \$960 in any four-year period; any amount in excess of \$960 must be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and then only if the debtor gives the Minister of Public Welfare a mortgage on the land on which his home is situated and, if required, on any additional land. The terms of repayment of the excess is as prescribed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Formerly, subject to the approval of the Minister of Public Welfare, the Regulations permitted an increase in the basic amount up to \$750 in any one year, with any amount in excess of \$750 to be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The Social Assistance (Consolidated) Regulations, 1961, published in the Newfoundland Gazette of January 17, 1961, consolidated all Regulations under The Social Assistance Act, 1954, and revoked all former Regulations.

The Dependents' Allowances (Repeal) Act, 1961, and The Mothers' Allowances (Repeal) Act, 1961, repealed The Dependents' Allowances Act and The Mothers' Allowances Act respectively, since the terms of both of these Acts had been incorporated in The Social Assistance Act, 1954.

QUEBEC

An amendment to the Quebec Public Charities Act, assented to May 10, 1961, added to the classes of persons assisted under the Act. The amendment, effective from September 1, 1961, provides for monthly allowances payable by the Province of up to \$65 to needy widows or spinsters of 60 to 65 years of age, and for monthly allowances of up to \$10 to needy persons receiving old age security, old age assistance, blind or disabled

persons' allowances. Additional amounts may be given in cases of necessity. The amendment also provides for allowances to needy persons who are not hospitalized and not assisted under other provisions of the Act.

Rates

Regulations under The Quebec Public Charities Act (O.C. Numbers 1664 and 1665) dated July 27, 1961, and effective September 1, 1961, replaced former Regulations. These Regulations, which were gazetted September 30, 1961, increased basic rates and made a number of important administrative and other changes. They were then amended by Regulation O.C. Number 1837 dated September 7, 1961, also gazetted on September 30.

Under Regulations 1664, rates of assistance and maximum allowable income are set for needy widows and spinsters and for persons receiving aid in the home. The total monthly income of needy widows and spinsters, including the allowance of \$65, may not exceed \$90. Allowances to persons receiving aid in the home have been raised. The allowance of up to \$30 a month to an adult living with his family may be increased to \$55 a month, if the family cannot contribute to his needs; the total monthly income, including the allowance, may not exceed \$80. Increases of \$10 a month over the basic rates may be made for an adult living apart from his family and for the head of a family of two adults, with total allowable income set at \$90 and \$120 respectively. An allowance of \$95 a month for a family of two adults with one child (formerly \$90) may be increased to \$105 a month, with total allowable income not to exceed \$130. The basic maximum allowance for an adult with one child has been raised from \$60 to \$75 a month, with monthly allowable income not to exceed \$100. For families with two or more children, \$10 a month each for the second and subsequent children is added to the allowance. Formerly for children over and above the number of seven the additional allowance was \$5 a month each.

O.C. 1664 also authorizes additional allowances of up to \$25 a month for heads of families, if the beneficiary is living in a city or in another municipality where the cost of living is declared equally high. Under Regulation 1665, an additional allowance of up to \$15 a month is provided for recipients of 'governmental allowances', who reside in areas recognized as high cost areas by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Recipients of 'governmental allowances' means those categories of persons who receive federal-provincial and provincial allowances, as follows: old age security, blind persons allowances, disabled persons allowances, needy mothers assistance, and aid to needy widows and spinsters.

Under these Regulations, also, allowances for persons not hospitalized and not assisted under other provisions of the Act are to be at a rate to be set by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

O.C. 1837 of September 7, 1961, authorizes the administrative authorities to increase the rates, if they are inadequate, but not the

maximum income, by \$15 a month for all classes of recipients living in a city or in another municipality forming part of the Corporation of Metropolitan Montreal, or in one of the cities or towns of Anjou, Côte St. Luc, Dorval, St. Léonard-de-Port Maurice, Québec, Sillery and Ste. Foy.

Administration

The Regulations of July 26, 1961 (O.C. 1665) transferred administration of supplementary assistance and special assistance (unusual expenses) from the Social Assistance Services of the Department of Family and Social Welfare to the Social Allowances Commission of the Department. Payments formerly made by municipal and voluntary agencies, subject to the approval of the Social Assistance Services, are now to be administered by and payments made directly by the Commission. Under O.C. Number 1887, voluntary and municipal agencies were given until January 1, 1962, to transfer all such cases to the Commission. Emergency assistance formerly payable by municipal or voluntary agencies may now also be paid directly by the Commission.

Means Test

Some changes were made in the means or needs test. The allowable income is now based on whether or not the individual is single or the head of a family, and whether or not he is employable or unemployable for twelve months or more. The amount of allowable cash or liquid assets for a single employable person is now \$200, and for the head of a family, \$400, including the capital of his spouse. The same rates apply to a person unemployable for less than 12 months. A single person or head of a family, if unemployable for twelve months or more, may have cash or liquid assets of \$1,000 including, for a married person, the capital of his spouse. A similar amount is allowed for a widow or spinster 60 to 65 years of age, and for a recipient of old age security, old age assistance, blind or disabled persons allowance. Under O.C. 1665, employable persons applying for assistance, are now obliged, like other categories of persons, not to have transferred assets within five years of application for the purpose of qualifying for assistance payments. Under former Regulations the period for this group was one year.

Income is computed much as before, with some slight changes in the proportion to be included of the amount paid for food and lodging by persons outside the family; this has been reduced from 40 to 30 per cent. O.C. 1664 and 1887 set out the financial obligations of relatives, those with whom the petitioners or beneficiaries live are obliged to contribute to their support either in money or in kind, an amount equal to at least 20 per cent of the taxable income. Children living with parents, who are beneficiaries of an allowance, are obliged to pay for board and lodging an amount up to \$50, that is, a

third of their monthly income up to \$150, and in addition, 10 per cent of the monthly income in excess of \$150.

ONTARIO

Substantial changes were made under The General Welfare Assistance Act by Regulations gazetted November 12, 1960 (O. Reg. 293/60), and subsequent amendments.

The major changes made by these Regulations is in the schedule of maximum rates of general assistance, which the Province will share with the municipalities. The schedule includes a specified amount for food, clothing and household sundries, termed 'the pre-added budget', which replaced the former separate amounts for each of these items, and includes, as well, the milk allowance formerly expressed in terms of quantity. Separate schedules are set out for single persons and for heads of families, with amounts according to the number and age of dependants.

Rates were subsequently raised by Regulations gazetted February 25, 1961 (O. Reg. 31/61). The amounts for all pre-added budgets were increased. The rate for a single person living alone, for example, was raised from \$27.75 to \$29.35 a month; that for a head of a family with one dependent adult was raised from \$49.50 to \$53.80 a month; and the rate for a family with one child 10 to 15 years of age was raised from \$60.35 to \$66 a month.

All shelter allowances were also raised by the above Regulations. The rate for single persons renting furnished and heated premises was raised from \$18.50 to \$25 a month. For heads of families renting unheated premises, the range was increased from \$19-\$34 a month to \$25 - \$40 a month, the amount varying with the number of rooms, from one to six, and for those renting heated premises the corresponding increase was from a range of \$23.05 - \$47.80 to a range of \$29.05 - \$53.80. The monthly amounts added for each room in excess of six remains unchanged.

The total maximum allowances, including all items, for heads of families with dependants remain unchanged.

A later amendment of July 3, 1961, (O. Reg. 172/61), raised the ceiling for shelter allowances in municipalities having a population of 100,000 or more (that is, Metropolitan Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, London, and Windsor). The maximum amount which the Province will share with these municipalities for heated premises is \$75 a month and for unheated premises, \$65 a month. The total maximum allowance for all items including the pre-added budget may be increased by the amount of the excess paid for the shelter allowance in these municipalities.

In assessing an applicant's income a municipal or regional welfare administrator must include the net amount of some items, such as income received from roomers, boarders or from rented self-contained quarters (30, 40 and 60 per cent respectively), and 40 per cent of the gross amount received under old age security, old age assistance, blind persons allowances, disabled persons allowances or mothers' allowances. He must also include the gross amount of payments, such as those received under a mortgage, agreement for sale, annuity or maintenance order. Income does not include family allowances, donations made by a religious, charitable or benevolent organization and casual gifts of small value (O. Reg. 172/61).

With the approval of the Director of the General Welfare Assistance Branch of the Department of Public Welfare a regional welfare administrator may now grant assistance to persons having residence in territory without municipal organization in amounts in excess of the maximum which the Province will share with a municipality (O. Reg. 172/61).

Transportation allowances which the Province will share with a municipality were extended under Regulations of November 12, 1960, to those required to enable a person to obtain employment or to enable him to obtain medical, hospital or nursing home care not provided in the municipality in which he is living, but these were revoked by the Regulations gazetted July 3, 1961. Under the Regulations gazetted December 2, 1961 (O. Reg. 362/61), transportation costs for persons resident in territory without municipal organization may now be paid for purposes other than to and from hospital, provided the purpose is approved by the Director as necessary for the general welfare of the person. The cost of an escort, where necessary, may be included. The Province will also pay the actual cost of the grave for the burial of an indigent person, if this is not provided free of charge under The Cemeteries Act, and the cost of transporting the body of a deceased person to a place to await burial.

Under O. Reg. 293/60 gazetted November 12, 1960, the following changes were also made. The date from which residence in a municipality or territory is calculated has been changed from April 1, 1956 to April 1, 1957. Periods in which supplementary aid was received may now be included in the calculation of residence. Rehabilitation services must now be approved by the Director of the General Welfare Assistance Branch rather than, as formerly, by the Minister. The procedure of payment for emergency dental services (extractions) has been altered. Vouchers are issued by the municipal welfare administrator and accounts paid by the municipality, with 80 per cent reimbursement by the Province. Formerly, accounts were forwarded direct to the Deputy Minister of Health and the bill paid by the Province.

Under O. Reg. 31/61, an unemployed but employable person must report to the local office of the National Employment Service every two weeks instead of weekly as formerly. The number of Indian Bands recognized

as municipalities was increased by 15 to a total of 37 (O. Reg. 173/61 and 317/60). O. Reg. 172/61 removed the income ceiling for rehabilitation cases.

MANITOBA

In Manitoba, Section 9 of the Social Allowances Act was proclaimed effective from October 1, 1961. This Section provides for appeal by an applicant or recipient of a provincial social allowance to the Appeal Board against refusal of an allowance, the amount of the allowance granted, or discontinuance, reduction or increase of the allowance.

SASKATCHEWAN

An amendment to the Social Aid Act, assented to April 8, 1961, authorized two or more municipalities to associate to provide aid to indigent persons within the municipalities. The municipal councils concerned are required to pass complementary by-laws which provide for the establishment of a board to exercise and perform the duties of a municipality under the Act. The by-laws must outline, among other particulars, the number and composition of the board, qualifications of members, and the proportion of the total cost of providing aid which each municipality shall share.

Changes were made in the Regulations governing the social aid and supplemental allowances programs.

Social Aid

Under Regulations O.C. 2036/60 gazetted December 2, 1960, a municipality is permitted to grant a rent allowance on the basis of actual rental. A schedule for natural gas rates is included for cities, towns and villages for heating and cooking where gas is used as an alternative to coal, wood, or fuel oil. Indetermining financial resources, the exemption permitted for burial expenses for elderly persons or persons with a short life expectancy was raised from \$250 to \$300 for a single person and from \$500 to \$600 for a married couple.

Under Regulations O.C. 1939/61 gazetted November 17, 1961, section 9 has been amended to permit a municipality to waive the provision that no aid be given a wage earner in full-time employment if the Director of Public Assistance has given prior approval to the criteria used by the municipality for dealing with such cases. If no prior approval has been given each case must be referred to the Director for decision.

In the section on shelter allowances payment on the principal of a mortgage or agreement for sale is allowed if the recipient receives aid for more than six months. Total amounts allowed for shelter, however, may not be in excess of the rental allowance which would otherwise be paid. Clothing allowances have been raised substantially, and now range from \$5 a month for a child of up to five years of age, to

\$10 for an adult 19 to 64 years of age, inclusive. The schedule of utility rates has been expanded to include village and rural rates as well as city rates. Municipalities, as formerly, may use the schedule or may pay an allowance to cover the actual cost of utilities.

The above Regulations permit the following exemptions in computing the applicant's financial resources: maintenance payments made by the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation on behalf of a child in the care of the Minister; the cash surrender value of life insurance up to \$600 for recipients having dependent children and who are likely to need assistance for more than six months; the value of room and board of a child under one year of age, where the child lives with his mother. In calculating income, 95 per cent of the gross income from suites is included.

The Regulations also re-affirmed the policy that social aid is not subject to transfer or to attachment in satisfaction of any claim.

Supplemental Allowances

Changes were made in amounts of allowances and in the method of calculating supplemental allowances for recipients of old age security or blind persons allowances under Regulations gazetted April 21, 1961 and May 12, 1961 (O.C. 613/61 and O.C. 329/61), and further changes were made by Regulations gazetted November 17, 1961 (O.C. 1940/61).

Under O.C. 613/61 the 'means-test' was replaced by a 'needs test' in which need is determined by the budget deficit method, that is, the applicant's available resources are balanced against the estimate of regularly recurring need. A person and his family are considered to be in need when a 'budget deficit' exists. Eligibility for supplemental allowances for new applicants has been determined under these Regulations since April 1, 1961. Persons receiving allowances under former Regulations continued under those Regulations until November 1, 1961, when all recipients were required to qualify under the new Regulations.

Under O.C. 613/61 allowances for food, shelter, clothing and utilities were set at the same rate as those for recipients of social aid, but fuel allowances varied slightly. Under Regulations O.C. 329/61 the allowance for necessities for personal care was raised from \$1.60 to \$6 monthly, and the amount for laundry, cleaning and household supplies raised from \$1.30 for a family of one or two adults to \$4 monthly for each adult.

Under Regulations gazetted November 17, 1961 (O.C. 1940/61) rates for clothing, utility, and shelter allowances were revised and set at the same rate as those set by Regulations of the same date for recipients of social aid.

Under Regulations O.C. 613/61, items to be counted as income are the same as for applicants for social aid, with the addition of

children's moneys held in trust by certain public bodies. Also, proceeds from the sale of real property, which are to be used for the purchase of other property to serve as a home, may be held in trust for a period of not more than four months pending completion of the purchase. During this period the proceeds are not treated as cash or liquid assets.

O.C.1940/61 provides that 95 per cent of gross income from suites be included in the calculation of income. In the determination of financial resources, exemptions correspond to those of social aid, but three additional subsections were added to apply to applicants for supplemental assistance. These permit exemptions to the extent of the value of room or board or both for a dependent son or daughter, who is not a child, but who is attending school on a full-time basis; the exemption continues for four months after the son or daughter discontinues school on a full-time basis. Aid granted to such a dependent son or daughter as a part of the family unit by the municipality is also exempt.

Persons receiving supplemental allowances may be absent from the Province for a period of up to three months without cancellation of the allowance. Provision is made for a special food allowance and for an allowance for a housekeeper, if this service is required by a recipient in his own home for himself or his family.

ALBERTA

An Act to amend The Public Welfare Act, assented to April 11, 1960, was proclaimed in force June 1, 1961. (This amendment provided for the addition to the Act of Part III, Social Allowances, to provide for provincial allowances to needy mothers with dependent children and to persons who because of age, or physical or mental incapacity that is likely to continue for more than ninety days are unable to earn sufficient income to support themselves and their dependants.)

The Social Allowances Regulations under the Act were gazetted May 15, 1961, and became effective June 1, 1961. These set out the residence requirements, the means test and allowable income, allowances payable for food and clothing, and the conditions of payment to trustees.

An applicant is required to be resident in the Province, that is, to be domiciled within the Province. He must declare all income, and must disclose all transfers or assignments of real or personal property within the five years preceding application. A single person is permitted liquid assets of \$500, and a married person or person with dependants, \$1,000, and in addition, a dwelling of reasonable value used by the applicant as a home.

The food schedule gives weekly, semi-monthly and monthly rates for an adult living alone, an adult living with others, a married couple, and nine classes of children according to age and sex. The monthly amounts

range from \$9.70 for an infant under one year of age, to \$27.50 for an adult living alone.

The clothing schedule sets out monthly amounts varying according to age and sex from \$3.70 for an infant under one year of age to \$9.60 for a girl 12 to 16 years of age.

Other basic needs, such as shelter, fuel, drugs, necessary for the health and well-being of the recipient, may be paid in amounts accepted as a minimum standard of health and decency in the community.

Payments may be made to a trustee on behalf of a recipient who is incapacitated through infirmity, illness or other cause, or if he is using or is likely to use his allowance for other than his own benefit.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

Under amendments to legislation affecting mothers with dependent children, rates were changed in three provinces, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Quebec, and coverage extended in three, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. Other major changes were made in Saskatchewan, an administrative change was made in New Brunswick, and amendments were made to the Regulations in Ontario.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

In Prince Edward Island, the maximum allowance per family was raised to \$125 from \$75 a month under an amendment to the Mothers' Allowances Act in March, 1961. The age of children attending school who may benefit by an allowance was extended from the end of the school year in which the sixteenth birthday falls to the end of the school year in which the eighteenth birthday falls.

NOVA SCOTIA

Under an amendment to Part I of the Social Assistance Act assented to March 13, 1961, a needy mother may qualify for an allowance if her husband is serving a term of imprisonment of two years less one day or a longer term; formerly a term of two years or longer was specified.

NEW BRUNSWICK

An amendment to The Social Assistance Act, Part I (Provincial Assistance), governing allowances for needy mothers with dependent children, changed the title of the 'Advisory Commission' to the 'Welfare

Advisory Board' and gave it advisory functions respecting Part I and Part II (Municipal Assistance). The function of the Board under Part I has been restricted and it is no longer to consider all applications from needy mothers with dependent children but only to inquire into the merits of those referred to it by the Director of the program. The appointment and composition of the Board remains as previously set out in the Act.

QUEBEC

The amendment to the Needy Mothers' Assistance Act, effective September 1, 1961, extended coverage of the Act and raised the basic rate for a mother and one child from \$60 to \$75 a month. It abolished the requirement of Canadian citizenship, reduced the residence requirement from three years to one year, removed the requirement that if a deserted mother is to be eligible for an allowance her husband have previous domicile in Quebec, and reduced from six to three months the period of absence or imprisonment of a husband before the mother may qualify for an allowance. It permits the grandmother to qualify for an allowance in cases where the mother has abandoned the children; formerly, the grandmother could receive an allowance only if the mother were dead or hospitalized. This provision, which formerly applied also to the sister or aunt, if of age, now extends also to the stepmother, sister or stepsister; it is now specified that the applicant be eighteen or more years of age.

ONTARIO

Regulations under The Mothers' and Dependent Children's Allowances Act amending previous Regulations were gazetted February 25, 1961, and with the addition of revised forms, on July 3, 1961 (O. Reg. 25/61 and 210/61).

Fuel allowances now extend from September to April inclusive instead of to March, for recipients living in a territorial district.

In determining the amount of an allowance, the qualification that the difference between the expenses and income be \$5 monthly or more has been removed; the amount of the allowance is now the difference between these two items.

The definition of 'liquid assets' was revised to exempt in calculating income the amount remaining to be paid to an applicant or recipient or to his spouse under a mortgage or agreement for sale. Also, the revised section specifies that damages in favor of a child for whom an allowance is applied for or allowed, are 'damages for physical injury and nervous shock suffered by a child or children...'

The regional welfare administrator may now accept as evidence of the divorce of an applicant any evidence satisfactory to him of the

dissolution of the marriage. Such evidence was formerly restricted to the original or a certified copy of the final decree or judgment.

The new Regulations require a field worker to submit a report every six months on the circumstances of each recipient, that might affect payment of the allowance. A report need now be submitted every four months or more frequently only when the Director or the regional administrator so directs.

SACKETSHELAN

The Mothers' Allowances Regulations under the Social Aid Act were rescinded, effective July 1, 1961, when a new set of Regulations came into effect. The Regulations for Aid to Dependent Families, as the program is now called, (O. C. 673/61) were gazetted April 21, 1961, and were amended by Regulations O.C. 1941/61 gazetted November 17, 1961.

These Regulations retain the same categories of eligible mothers with dependent children as did the former Regulations governing mothers' allowances. Significant changes, however, have been made in rates and in allowable income. Aid under the new Regulations may not be received concurrently with social aid or with a supplemental allowance for basic maintenance. Formerly, mothers' allowances recipients could receive assistance also from the municipality of residence if need existed. The rates for items of basic maintenance under the new Regulations are the same as for recipients of social aid and are higher than those formerly paid under mothers' allowances. For example, a mother and one child who received a mothers allowance of \$60 a month, may now receive, depending on the age of the child, \$32.50 to \$46.50 for food, and, as amended by Regulations of November 17, 1961, \$15 to \$20 for clothing, \$40 for rent, and, in addition, other allowances for fuel, utilities and items of personal and household care.

No specific maximum allowable amounts for liquid and other assets are set out under the new Regulations. Need is to be determined according to the budget deficit method, that is, the balancing of available resources against the estimate of regularly recurring need. The resources to be considered are the same as those for recipients of social aid. Recipients of mothers' allowances under former Regulations whose assets exceeded those allowed by the new Regulations were permitted six months in which to reduce their assets through reasonable expenditure, and at the end of this period eligibility was to be established in accordance with the new Regulations.

The Regulations of November 17, 1961, made several amendments. Clothing and utility allowances were increased and an allowance authorized to cover taxes, interest and principal on a mortgage at the same rates as those set out in the revised Social Aid Regulations. Clothing rates were raised to \$5 a month from \$2.60 for a child under 5 years of age, and range up to \$10 a month for a person 19 to 64 years of age, an increase

from \$5.50. A special food allowance on medical recommendation, and an allowance for a housekeeper, if required, are authorized. Aid may be given of up to \$60 a month per person for board and room, with an additional allowance of up to \$10 a month for comforts. The exemptions allowed in calculating income were broadened to include the following: maintenance payments made by the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation on behalf of a child in the care of the minister; the value of room or board of a dependent son or daughter, who is not a child, but who is attending school on a full-time basis, the value of such room or board for a period of four months after the son or daughter has ceased attending school on a full-time basis, aid granted by a municipality to such a dependent son or daughter as part of the family unit; the value of room and board of a child under one year of age where the child is living with the mother; the cash surrender value of life insurance up to \$600.

LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED

The interest rate on loans made under Section 16 of the National Housing Act was increased from 5 1/8 per cent to 5 3/8 per cent per annum by Order in Council P.C. 1961-551, gazetted April 26, 1961, and was subsequently reduced to 5 1/8 per cent by Order in Council P.C. 1961-1493, gazetted November 8, 1961.

During their 1961 sessions the Legislatures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario passed legislation affecting living accommodation for the aged. New or amended Regulations came into effect in Ontario and Alberta.

NOVA SCOTIA

Under a new Section of the Social Assistance Act, the Minister of Public Welfare may pay an honorarium and travelling allowance to the members of a Board of Visitors who have inspected a municipal home and filed their report.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The Auxiliary Homes Act was assented to April 8, 1961, and is to take effect when proclaimed. This Act provides for provincial aid for the construction of accommodation for persons who, because of disease or age, require custodial care but do not qualify for services under the Hospital Services Act. A municipality, municipalities, or charitable organizations constructing such a home may receive a provincial grant of two thousand dollars per bed or fifty per cent of capital costs, including equipment, whichever is the lesser.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations respecting the construction, equipping, furnishing, maintenance, inspection, supervision, control and management of an auxiliary home, the number of patients to be accommodated, the standard of nursing care, the conditions for the admittance of patients, payment of the subsidy for construction, and any other necessary matters.

The Act is to be administered by the Minister of Youth and Welfare or other member of the Executive Council designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

QUEBEC

Through Order in Council 1210, gazetted July 29, 1961, limited-dividend housing companies, as defined in the National Housing Act, are exempted from corporation taxes under the Corporation Tax Act of the Province.

ONTARIO

By an amendment, The Homes for the Aged Act requires that a person appointed as superintendant of a home must have served satisfactorily in such a capacity for at least six months, and must have completed a course of instruction approved by the Minister. Temporary appointments may be made for a period of up to one year. A new subsection in the Act requires the appointment of a physician to be responsible for the medical care of residents in a home.

Through a change in admittance requirements, mentally incompetent persons who are not eligible for admission to an institution under The Mental Hospitals Act must now be over sixty years of age before being admitted to a home for the aged.

Regional welfare administrators are now included among persons having authority to take affidavits and statutory declarations under the Act, replacing district welfare administrators and supervisors.

The cost of maintaining homes in territorial districts is to be defrayed in proportion to municipal assessments according to the assessment rolls as revised and equalized in the immediately preceding year. Where assessment rolls are not equalized by February 10, a Board may apportion the amount it requires in proportion to the assessments most recently equalized, rather than on assessment rolls returned but not yet equalized.

Boards of homes are now permitted to include in their estimates a reserve for working funds which is not to exceed 15 per cent of the total estimates for the year.

In estimating the cost of a new building, or the alteration of an existing one, the amount of land for which costs may be included has been reduced from fifteen to eight acres.

Regulations under The Ontario Homes for the Aged Act, gazetted October 21, 1961, amended the definition of 'provincial authority' to include regional welfare administrators or welfare institutions supervisors in place of district welfare supervisors and district welfare administrators.

All medical services provided or used in a home for the aged are subject to the approval of the physician appointed for the home. At least once a year the physician must report to the Board or Committee of Management on the general health of the residents and on the medical and nursing services provided, and make any recommendations he considers essential for their health and well-being.

The Regulations now require that an applicant for admission to a home must have a chest x-ray and be declared free of tuberculosis. Also, the residents of a home must be given an annual chest x-ray as well as an annual medical examination. The physician for the home is to attend and prescribe for any resident who does not have his own attending physician, or who requests the services of the home's physician.

A new subsection requires that notice of the death of a resident must be given to a coroner other than a coroner who is the physician for the home in which the deceased was a resident. The date that the notice of death was given to the coroner must be included in the written record of the deceased.

When the cost of maintaining a person in special home care is \$90 a month or less (formerly \$75), the amount payable by the Province remains at 70 per cent of the cost less 70 per cent of any maintenance payments made by the person or on his behalf, other than by a municipality. When the cost is more than \$90 (formerly \$75), the Province will pay an amount equal to \$63 (formerly \$52.50), less 70 per cent of maintenance payments as described above. Where an application for the provincial share of maintenance costs is not made within three months following the first day of the month to which it relates, the amount payable when the cost is \$90 or less (formerly \$75) is 25 per cent of the cost less 25 per cent of maintenance payments made. Where the cost is more than \$90, the payment would be equal to \$22.50 a month (formerly \$18.75), less 25 per cent of maintenance payments made.

The Board or Committee of Management of a home must ensure that up-to-date inventory records are maintained on a continuing basis, and are available for inspection at any time. The records must show additions and deductions, together with the reasons for them, and the disposition of any item deducted. Serial numbers must be assigned to each item of furnishings and equipment. The Board or Committee must designate a person to make an annual inspection of the records and items, and to submit a written report.

Other minor amendments were made to the Regulations, and the form of the physician's report on an applicant seeking admission to a home has been revised.

ALBERTA

Detailed Regulations governing fire prevention in municipally licensed homes for the aged have been issued under the Fire Prevention Act. These Regulations, Order in Council 177/61, gazetted February 15, 1961, are concerned mainly with structural aspects of homes, heating units, and equipment provided for the prevention and extinguishing of fires. While certain of the provisions apply to all licensed homes, others do not apply to existing homes except on the written order of the Provincial Fire Commissioner or his inspectors.

Plans and specifications for new homes or for additions and alterations to existing homes, must be submitted to the Provincial Fire Commissioner before construction begins. Plans must be complete enough to show compliance with the Regulations. Height and area limitations, and heating and cooking installations must conform to the provisions of the National Building Code. In addition, special construction features apply for the use of fire walls and smoke barriers, the enclosing of stairwells and chutes, and the materials to be used for interior surfaces.

In all homes, safety rules and a plan for the protection and evacuation of residents must be posted. Employees are to be instructed in fire safety and trained in the proper use of fire-fighting equipment. The superintendent of a home is required to test the fire alarm system each week, inspect fire extinguishing units once a month, and have heating equipment and chimneys inspected every six months. A fire drill must be held each month.

2. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE,
MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES, AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED,
NOVEMBER, 1959, TO OCTOBER, 1960, INCLUSIVE.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The terms of the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1956, became effective in all provinces and territories with the signing of an agreement with the Yukon Territory on November 1, 1959, to be retroactive to January 1, 1959. Under this Act the federal Government pays to the provinces 50 per cent of the cost of financial assistance to the unemployed, irrespective of their employability. Reimbursement is made to the Province within the existing provincial framework of general assistance.

Several provinces made major changes in their general assistance legislation in 1960. A new Act was passed in New Brunswick and major amendments were introduced in Quebec and Nova Scotia, and, although not yet proclaimed, in Alberta. Several changes were made in the Newfoundland legislation and minor amendments in Saskatchewan and Ontario. The greater part of the Social Allowances Act of Manitoba, passed in 1959, was proclaimed effective as of February 1, 1960.

NEW BRUNSWICK

The Social Assistance Act passed by the New Brunswick Legislature completely reorganized the administration of assistance to needy persons. The statute repealed The Mothers' Allowances Act, The Legal Settlement Act, The Support of the Poor Act and The Municipal Homes Act. Much of the content of these Acts was, however, consolidated and included in The Social Assistance Act.

Part I of the Act, effective April 1, 1960, provides for the payment of provincial allowances to needy mothers (discussed below in "Changes in Mothers' Allowances"). Part II, effective July 1, 1960, enables the Province for the first time to share with the municipalities in a general assistance program. This Part also sets out the duties and responsibilities of the municipalities and of the Province in the provision of aid to needy persons, including those in need of care in municipal homes.

Regulations under the Act set out administrative and food standards to be observed by the municipalities as a condition of provincial aid. Under the formula of aid the Province reimburses each municipality to the extent of one dollar per capita of the population plus 70 per cent of expenditures made in excess of that amount, provided the minimum standards of food allowances are met. The Province also pays 50 per cent of the cost of administration of aid to persons in need, on condition that municipal standards of administration, including the qualifications of the Director of the department or agency, as specified in the Regulations, are observed.

Legal settlement is the device used to establish the financial responsibility of a municipality, and this is reduced from three years to one year under the new Act.

QUEBEC

In Quebec, the program of general assistance was revised through an amendment to the Quebec Public Charities Act, effective January 1, 1960, with Regulations.

The amendment gives greater administrative and financial responsibility to the Province and, depending on the program, reduces or eliminates municipal responsibility; widens coverage to include additional classes of persons; includes welfare organizations such as social agencies in the definition of public charitable institutions; and eliminates municipal domicile in those categories for which the municipality has no financial responsibility. The amendment also transfers houses of refuge from the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health to that of the Minister of Social Welfare.

The Regulations set out categories of persons eligible for assistance, prescribe means tests, specify rates of assistance and the distribution of costs of maintenance of children in care of social agencies or institutions.

The Province does not require a municipal contribution toward the cost of aid to employable and unemployable persons in their own homes. Aid to persons unfit for work for at least 12 months is administered and paid by the Quebec Social Allowances Commission of the Department of Social Welfare. Aid to employable persons continues to be administered by municipal welfare departments or by recognized social agencies, but with full reimbursement by the Province. All applications, however, must be forwarded to the Social Assistance Services, Department of Social Welfare, for the purpose of enquiry and approval or for modification of the decision reached by the agency concerned.

Supplementary assistance may be paid by the Province to recipients of government allowances and of old age security and also to special cases, that is, to persons who do not meet the conditions of eligibility but are in need, and to whom payments are considered within the spirit of the law. "Urgent assistance" up to \$100 may be given by a welfare organization with full reimbursement by the Province to persons not otherwise eligible where aid is required under some special circumstances, such as to prevent eviction.

Municipalities in Quebec are no longer required to contribute to the cost of aid given to persons in homes for special care or in private nursing homes. The costs are now shared on a basis of two thirds by the Province and one third by the institution. Substantial increases in the maximum per diem rates payable by the Province to the institution were

authorized by Order in Council No. 474 of March 30, 1960. In the case of other persons, including children receiving institutional care, where the cost is shared by the Province, the municipality, and the institution, the municipal contribution has been reduced from 24 per cent to 12 per cent for cities and towns and from 15 per cent to 8 per cent for municipalities governed by the Municipal Code.

Domicile is a factor in cases where the municipality has some financial responsibility. The amendment gives the right of appeal to municipalities in matters of domicile, eliminates the continuity of domicile, and enables a married woman separated from or abandoned by her husband to establish her own domicile as if she were a widow. Domicile is, as formerly, the place of last residence for 12 consecutive months, but is now lost after 12 consecutive months absence from the municipality.

Provision is made for the confidentiality of municipal documents. No list or identifying information about recipients of aid may be published or disclosed to any person other than those concerned with granting assistance.

NOVA SCOTIA

In Nova Scotia an amendment to The Social Assistance Act, 1958, repealed The Mothers' Allowances Act and incorporated aid to needy mothers in Part I, Provincial Assistance, to become effective April 1, 1960 (see section on Mothers' Allowances below).

The amendment also provided, on a date to be fixed by the Governor in Council, for the payment of provincial allowances to disabled persons between the ages of 18 and 65 who are not eligible to receive an allowance under the Disabled Person's Allowances Act or the Blind Persons Allowances Act. This section was subsequently proclaimed to be in force from July 1, 1960.

ALBERTA

Alberta, by an amendment, yet to be proclaimed, to The Public Welfare Act, added a new part to the Act: Part III, Social Allowances, which would provide for provincial social allowances to needy mothers with dependent children, now aided under the Mothers' Allowances Act, and to persons, who, because of their age or by reason of physical or mental ill health or incapacity that is likely to last more than ninety days, cannot earn a sufficient income to pay for basic necessities. Persons who are receiving old age security, old age assistance, blind or disabled persons allowances may also be eligible for an allowance if need is proven.

The amendment also made an addition to Part I of the Act under which a municipality would be required to pay to the Minister of Public Welfare any moneys recovered from an indigent person or his estate in excess of the amount contributed by the municipality.

NEWFOUNDLAND

In Newfoundland an amendment to The Social Assistance Act repealed and replaced Section 20 of the Act, which dealt with the collection as a debt to the Crown of any assistance obtained by misrepresentation or fraud. The new section tightened this provision by adding assistance obtained by non-disclosure of facts or any other cause.

Regulations under the Act gazetted March 29, 1960 make it clear that, where a husband and wife or either of them is under the age of 21, social assistance payable by reason of mental or physical incapacity or other exigency is to be at the usual rate for adults.

Under Regulations gazetted September 28, 1960, effective October 1, 1960, changes were made concerning allowable income. For persons requiring assistance for reasons other than unemployment, the allowable annual income was raised from \$360 to \$440 for a family of adults and children. The means test for persons whose only claim to social assistance is unemployment was adjusted to include income for the 60 days preceding application as well as the preceding 30 days, as formerly specified. Income for one adult may not exceed \$35 for the preceding 30 days, or \$100 for the preceding 60 days. For each additional person in the family, amounts are increased by \$10 for the 30-day period and by \$20 for the preceding 60 days. There is also an extension of deductions that may be made in calculating income.

These Regulations also provide that from June 1, 1960, the boarding allowance for an ambulatory person be raised from \$60 to \$75 a month, and for a person who is bedridden, from \$75 to \$100 a month.

Additional Regulations gazetted October 25, 1960, make provision for 'centralization assistance' to the householders of a community, when all the inhabitants wish centralization, that is, to abandon a community voluntarily and move to new communities under the guidance and with the assistance of the Department of Public Welfare. The resolution to move the community must be passed unanimously at a public meeting and a committee of three elected by householders to conduct negotiations with the Department through the local welfare officer. The Social Assistance Board may grant each householder who applies for such assistance an amount up to \$600. The applicant may claim assistance to pay for building materials, transportation of persons and property, hired labour, and the purchase of land upon which to erect a dwelling house in his chosen community.

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan amended The Social Aid Act to clarify the policy and procedures to be followed in the movement of indigent persons from one municipality to another; and to authorize municipalities to pay members of appeal committees up to \$4 a day in addition to any other remuneration that they receive while attending meetings, and 10 cents a mile in travelling to and from meetings.

Regulations gazetted December 18, 1959, amending previous Regulations, permit the Director to approve room and board for needy persons in excess of the maximum if extreme hardship would otherwise result, and to give an additional allowance of up to \$10 a month for comforts. A comforts allowance of up to \$10 for persons in nursing homes is also allowed. The amendment permits a clothing replacement allowance in the case of an employable person only after he has been receiving aid for three months.

ONTARIO

Ontario amended The General Welfare Assistance Act to replace the term 'supplementary allowance' with 'supplementary aid' to correspond with the terminology used in the agreement between Ontario and the federal Government under The Unemployment Assistance Act.

That part of the 1959 amendment providing for the extension of terms of The General Welfare Assistance Act to Indian bands was proclaimed effective January 1, 1960. Twenty-two Indian bands have been approved for purposes of the Act. These are listed in O. Reg. 51/60, gazetted March 12, 1960, O. Reg. 100/60, gazetted May 7, 1960, and O. Reg. 222/60 gazetted August 20, 1960.

Regulations gazetted November 28, 1959 (O. Reg. 267/59) revoke former provisions and provide a penalty for late returns by municipal welfare administrators of statements of account covering assistance granted during the month. If the required statement is not submitted to the Minister within three months next following the first day of the month to which it relates, the payment by the Province to the municipality based on the statement is reduced from 80 per cent to 30 per cent.

These Regulations also revoke Regulation 26 of the Regulations of June, 1957, dealing with premiums for medical care. The premium for medical care payable on behalf of each person granted assistance during the month, which must be shown on the monthly statement of account, has been raised from \$1.05 to \$1.25. As formerly, the Province pays the full amount to the Ontario Medical Association and, as medical care premiums are shareable on the same basis as other assistance payments, 20 per cent of the amount shown for each monthly statement is recovered by the Province from the municipality.

MANITOBA

The Social Allowances Act, 1959, of Manitoba, with the exception of the sections relating to mothers with dependent children, Indians and appeal, was proclaimed effective February 1, 1960.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

Five provinces made some change in their legislation affecting mothers with dependent children.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia both repealed their Mother's Allowances Acts and since April 1, 1960 have provided allowances to needy mothers under Part I of their respective Social Assistance Acts. These allowances are administered and financed provincially as under the former Acts. Eligibility requirements have been broadened and, in New Brunswick, a change in rates made. In Nova Scotia length of residence is no longer a factor; the only requirement now is that the applicant be living in the province. The new Act does not exclude Indians from assistance under the Act.

In New Brunswick several changes were made: the definition of "foster-mother" has been expanded to include a sister-in-law of the child; the qualifying time for a mother deserted by her husband has been reduced from two years to one; the maximum monthly allowance payable to a mother or foster mother has been raised from \$80 to \$90; and residence requirements have been simplified in that the former provisions applicable to the child have been eliminated, and it is now required only that the mother be resident for at least one year immediately prior to her application.

Alberta, at the spring session of the Legislature, passed an Act to amend The Public Welfare Act, which would, on proclamation, make allowances to needy mothers payable under Part III of the Act. Administration and payment of allowances will remain a provincial responsibility.

When Manitoba's Social Allowances Act, 1959 is fully proclaimed, several changes will be made in allowances to needy mothers. However, the proclamation of most of the Act, effective February 1, 1960, had the effect of eliminating the citizenship requirement for an allowance payable on behalf of a dependent child otherwise eligible and of raising the age of children who may benefit to 16 years. Mothers' allowances, still payable under The Child Welfare Act in Manitoba, have since February 1, 1960 been administered under Regulations (Manitoba Regulation 7/60) which apply also to provincial social allowances payable to other categories under The Social Allowances Act. The rates for basic necessities remain unchanged.

In Newfoundland, Regulations under The Social Assistance Act, gazetted February 2, 1960, were amended to provide that, in families receiving a cash allowance, unmarried children over 16 years of age who are not attending school may qualify for assistance in kind in their own right. Regulations gazetted March 29, 1960 make it clear that a mother, father or foster mother under 21 years of age who qualifies for an allowance for a dependent child is entitled to a food and clothing allowance at the same rate as persons over 21 years of age.

Increases in food and clothing rates for children under 16 years of age and in the amount of allowable income were made under Regulations gazetted September 28, 1960. Food rates for children, except those receiving aid in kind, have been raised from \$8 to \$10 a month and the clothing rate has been raised to a flat \$5 a month from \$2 for each child under 6 years of age and from \$3 for each child between 6 and 16 years of age. The allowable income for a family of adults and children has been raised from \$440 to \$800 a year.

LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED

In recent years an increasing number of low-rental housing projects for the elderly and some hostel accommodation have been partially financed through long-term low-interest loans made under section 16 of the National Housing Act. Such loans may cover up to 90 per cent of the cost of a project and may be amortized over a period of up to 50 years. The interest rate on loans made under section 16 was reduced from 5 7/8 per cent to 5 1/8 per cent per annum by Order in Council P.C. 1960 - 13/9, gazetted on October 12, 1960. Other changes are forecast in the Speech from the Throne.

During their 1960 sessions, the Legislatures of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia passed legislation affecting living accommodation for the aged; new or amended regulations came into effect in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

NEWFOUNDLAND

The Province of Newfoundland is authorized by the Senior Citizens (Housing) Act, 1960, to guarantee the repayment of loans made under section 16 of the National Housing Act, when they are made to limited-dividend companies constructing hostels or housing for the elderly. Such a guarantee is required by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation when it makes loans for hostel accommodation. Payment of the cost of operating hostels or housing projects may also be guaranteed by the Province under the new Act.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

In Prince Edward Island, through the Provincial Homes for the Aged Act, 1960, the institution formerly known as the Provincial Infirmary has been designated as the Home for the Elderly, and the Provincial Infirmary Act under which it formerly operated has been repealed. The home is operated by the Department of Welfare and Labour. When the transition to a home for the aged is completed, care will no longer be provided for the mentally ill. The home will, however, continue to offer some nursing care.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Municipal homes in New Brunswick, which were formerly governed by The Municipal Homes Act, are now operated under The Social Assistance Act, 1960. The earlier Act has been repealed.

The municipal homes care for needy persons of all ages, except those who are responsible for and have children in their care. Under the new statute the province contributes for the first time to the maintenance of needy persons in municipal homes. This is done under the formula of aid to municipalities for general assistance.

The Act also authorizes the inspection of municipal homes by boards of commissioners appointed by the municipalities responsible for the homes and sets out the duties of the commissioners.

Regulations under The Social Assistance Act require municipal homes to meet standards outlined in Regulations issued in 1958 under The Health Act. The latter provide for the licensing and inspection of private places offering accommodation for more than two aged and infirm persons, and standards in them govern, among other things, accommodation, fire protection, personnel, medical care, nutrition and record keeping. Changes made in these Regulations under The Health Act (Order in Council 60-249, gazetted March 30, 1960) tightened fire prevention measures for licensed homes.

QUEBEC

Through an amendment to the Quebec Public Charities Act and by new Regulations issued under it, the Province has increased its contributions toward the cost of maintaining needy persons in public charitable institutions, including homes for the aged. The Province now pays two thirds of maintenance costs, the remaining one third being paid by the institution providing care.

Prior to the amendment, cities and towns were contributing 24 per cent of the cost of maintaining their residents in homes for the aged, and rural municipalities 15 per cent of such costs. Under Order in Council 474-60, which became effective on April 1, the provincial contribution may not exceed \$2.20 per day for persons able to take care of themselves and \$3 per day for those requiring occasional supervision. Rates for totally disabled persons may be up to \$6 per day.

ONTARIO

Residents of municipal homes who have incomes or assets exceeding amounts to be set by regulation are required through an amendment to the Ontario Homes for the Aged Act to pay for their maintenance in the homes. The Act did not formerly include such a requirement.

Several changes had been made in regulations under the Homes for the Aged Act and the Charitable Institutions Act. Through O.Reg. 242/59, gazetted October 24, 1959, maximum limits have been set on the amounts that may be included in maintenance costs for medical services provided to residents of a municipal home. These are \$2 per bed each month if the home has a bed care unit and \$1.75 per bed if it does not have such a unit. Similar maximum limits have been set for charitable institutions by O.Reg. 241/59, gazetted on the same date. In both cases provincial grants are, of course, based on maintenance costs.

Provincial maintenance grants to charitable institutions equal 75 per cent of the amount paid by the institutions for the maintenance of their needy residents. The grant is based on "the average daily cost of maintenance", which is the average daily cost of maintaining a resident during the preceding calendar year. The maximum cost on which a grant may be based has been increased from \$3.30 to \$3.40 per day by O.Reg. 241/59, mentioned above.

A provincial grant is no longer paid on behalf of any resident of a charitable institution who is not contributing to his own support, if the provincial supervisor who inspects charitable institutions decides that the resident is able to contribute. Also, if any resident is able to contribute more than he is providing, the additional amount that he could pay is considered as paid in computing a grant. These provisions are contained in O.Reg. 16/60 gazetted January 23, 1960.

MANITOBA

New regulations have been issued under the Manitoba Elderly Persons Housing Act, 1959. It is under this Act that the Province makes capital grants and guarantees the repayment of loans to municipalities and voluntary organizations constructing housing projects or homes for the aged.

Under the Regulations (Manitoba Regulation 96/59) gazetted January 9, 1960, applications for capital grants must be accompanied by a capital and operating budget for the proposed project and a scale plan showing rooms for the accommodation of residents, with the number of beds in each room. A proposed capital and operating budget is also required with each application for a provincial guarantee. The value of the land and buildings for which the loan that is to be guaranteed has been made, the name of the lender, and the interest rate on and method of repayment of the loan are also required. Any organization applying for a guarantee must be incorporated and a loan must be secured by a mortgage on the property for which it is granted. The sponsor of any project for which a guarantee is granted must also submit an operating budget each year until the loan is repaid.

SASKATCHEWAN

The provincial maintenance subsidy paid annually to hostels or homes for the aged in Saskatchewan has been increased from \$40 to \$60 per

bed by O.C. 720/60 gazetted May 6, 1960. To be eligible for this grant, homes must be licensed by the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation. The annual subsidy paid for low-rental housing remains at \$40 for each self-contained unit.

ALBERTA

Order in Council 602/60, gazetted May 14, 1960, sets the rates to be charged in municipal homes for the aged in Alberta. These rates will apply in the 50 municipally operated homes being built throughout the Province at the expense of the provincial Government. Under the Regulations, residents maintained in homes will be charged \$60 per month if they live in double bedrooms and \$65 a month for single rooms.

However, persons whose only income is derived from old age security plus the Alberta supplementary allowance will not be charged more than \$60 per month under any circumstances. Those who have not established residence in Alberta for welfare purposes may be charged \$65 and \$70 for residence in double and single rooms respectively.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Municipal Act of British Columbia has been amended to require municipalities to grant tax exemptions to low-rental housing projects and homes for the aged built by non-profit organizations with the aid of provincial capital grants under the Elderly Citizens Housing Aid Act. The exemption covers both land and buildings but does not extend to local improvement charges.

3. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE,
MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES, AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED,
JANUARY TO OCTOBER, 1959, INCLUSIVE.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

A number of significant changes occurred in general assistance legislation across Canada during 1959.

The terms of the federal Unemployment Assistance Act were extended to all provinces with the signing of an agreement with Quebec on July 1, 1959, to be retroactive to July 1, 1958. The federal Government reimburses provinces which have signed agreements under the Act for 50 per cent of assistance payments made to or on behalf of needy unemployed persons, with the exception of aid under mothers' allowances legislation and certain other costs.

Four provinces made changes in their assistance legislation: Nova Scotia and Ontario amended their Acts and Saskatchewan and Manitoba introduced new Acts which involved changes in provincial and municipal responsibilities.

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia amended Part I of the Social Assistance Act, 1958, ^{1/} to permit a provincial allowance paid on behalf of a child to be extended until the child reaches the age of 18 or to the end of the school year in which he reaches 18 years, if the Director of Social Assistance considers it advisable that he continues his education.

The amendment also provides for supplementary assistance to cover the cost in whole or in part of medical services to children who are in the care of a foster parent and whose parents are dead or permanently disabled. A foster parent caring for a child who has been abandoned or is not being maintained by his parent or parents is required under the amendment to have made every reasonable effort to obtain support for the child from its parents, parent, or surviving parent before becoming eligible for an allowance.

^{1/} Part I applies to certain categories of mothers or foster mothers with dependent children not covered under The Mothers' Allowance Act; aid to this group is a provincial expenditure.

With reference to Part II of the Act, the amendment provides that the Province reimburse a municipal unit for not more than 83 1/3 per cent of expenditures, exclusive of administration costs, for assistance provided during February, March and April, 1959, to persons in need not maintained in a municipal home, nursing homes or similar institution; this measure was designed to relieve the municipalities of the extra burden caused by the increase in unemployment during these months.

The Regulations under the Act require municipalities to meet certain standards if they are to qualify for provincial aid. The municipal unit must grant a weekly food allowance of an amount not less than a specified minimum and, in order to qualify for reimbursement of administrative expenses, must meet certain standards of administration and personnel. The municipal unit is, for example, required to make provision for the granting of assistance through an organized welfare department, either separately or in co-operation with another municipal unit, or through a children's aid society, a branch of the Provincial Department of Public Welfare or other social agency. Also, the Director or person in charge of the welfare department of a municipal unit or of the agency administering assistance must be a full-time employee and must be a professionally trained social worker, or have education and training which the Minister of Public Welfare considers adequate to qualify him for his office.

ONTARIO

In Ontario The General Welfare Assistance Act, 1958, was proclaimed effective January 1, 1959. An amendment was made to the Act in 1959 under which the council of a city, town, village or township may appoint a welfare administrator without the approval of the Minister of Public Welfare, as formerly required.

The amendment also extends provisions of the Act to Indian bands, upon proclamation. An Indian band approved for purposes of the Act may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint a member of the band to act as welfare administrator. The council of the band is then required to provide assistance to those members on the reserve who are eligible for such assistance and may provide aid to other eligible persons living on the reserve, as well as supplementary allowances to recipients of governmental benefits.

Regulations under the Act gazetted February 14, 1959 (O. Reg. 12/59) add a section on residence to Regulations as revised in 1958. The date from which municipal residence is calculated has been changed from April 1, 1953 to April 1, 1956, so that a person is considered to have residence in the municipality or in the territory without municipal organization in which he last resided for a period of 12 consecutive months since April 1, 1956, while not in receipt of assistance. These Regulations

also outline the procedure to be followed by a municipality in recovering the amount of assistance given a non-resident from the municipality of residence or from the Province, as the case may be.

An amendment in 1959 to the Charitable Institutions Act provides for a provincial grant to a charitable organization planning a new building, an addition to an existing building, or an acquired building to be used as a hostel for the care of transient and homeless persons. The provincial grant is paid at the rate of \$1,500 a bed for a new building or an addition, of \$450 a bed for an acquired building or, in either case, an amount equal to 30 per cent of the cost of building to the charitable organization, whichever is the lesser. Payment of the grant is contingent upon the payment to the charitable organization by the municipality in which the hostel is located of an amount equal to at least 20 per cent of the cost.

SASKATCHEWAN

The new Social Aid Act in Saskatchewan, which became effective April 1, 1959, made several important changes in the social aid program. These include the abolition of the municipal residence requirement, a new formula for provincial-municipal sharing of costs, and the establishment of standards to be observed by the municipalities.

The only residence requirement under the new Act is that the applicant be physically present in the municipality.

Under the new formula for reimbursement, each municipality is assessed annually on a per capita basis for a relatively small portion of the total over-all cost of social aid. In explaining the new system in terms of the base year 1956-57, the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation estimated this at about 7 per cent. The amount which the municipalities are required to contribute annually is computed by multiplying the per capita rate set for the year by the estimated population of the municipality; the Province then reimburses the municipality for 100 per cent of the actual social aid expenditures during the year. The same system is applied to Local Improvement Districts and the Northern Administration District.

The fairly detailed standards set out in the Regulations concern the confidentiality of the circumstances of the applicant, procedure for both application and appeal, and determination of eligibility. The Regulations also set out the method of calculating the applicant's financial resources, including the items which are to be exempt from consideration as income.

A schedule of allowances for food, rent, clothing, fuel, utilities, personal and household incidentals, and items of special need are set out in

detail. Municipalities, however, may set their own rates of assistance but these must be approved by the Director of Public Assistance.

The new Act, as did the former Act, authorizes payment of mothers' allowances, and of supplemental allowances to recipients of old age security and blind persons' allowances. Each of these, as before, is a separate program and is governed by a separate set of Regulations.

MANITOBA

The Social Allowances Act, 1959, passed at the second session of the Manitoba Legislature and yet to be proclaimed, repeals the Social Assistance Act and makes a number of major changes in the program. The Act distinguishes between "social allowances" to be paid and administered by the Province and "indigent relief" to be administered by the municipalities.

While the formula for reimbursement by the Province to the municipalities remains the same, the municipalities will, in effect, receive a substantial increase in aid from the Province because of the assumption by the latter of the entire cost of assistance, including administration, for several categories of needy persons. Areas transferred to the Province include aid to persons who are not able to support themselves or their dependents because of their age or because of physical or mental incapacity likely to last more than 90 days, and any supplementary aid which may be granted to persons in receipt of old age security, old age assistance, blind or disabled persons allowances. They also include certain child welfare costs which, under the previous Act, were borne in part by the municipality; the Province assumes the entire cost of maintenance for children who have been apprehended and are in the custody of the Director of Public Welfare or of a Society, and the maintenance costs of children committed to the care and custody of the Director or of a Society. In the latter case, the Province is also to bear the cost of hospital care and treatment for any child not an insured person under the provincial Hospital Services Insurance Act, 1958. The Province continues to be responsible for aid to persons in unorganized territory.

The municipalities remain responsible for assistance to indigent persons who cannot qualify for a provincial social allowance in the categories mentioned above.

Mothers' allowances, formerly paid under the Child Welfare Act, are now included in the Social Allowances Act (see below).

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

Amendments in mothers' allowances legislation were made during 1959 in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan and new legislation passed in Manitoba.

In New Brunswick the amendment to the Mothers' Allowances Act adds a clause to define a deserted wife as one who is living apart from her husband because of his acts of cruelty, because of his refusal or neglect without sufficient cause to supply her with food, clothing and other necessities, or because of his having been guilty of adultery which has not been condoned. This definition corresponds with that of the Deserted Wives and Children Maintenance Act.

The amendment to the Nova Scotia Mothers' Allowances Act raised the maximum amount payable on behalf of disabled children of the age of 16 years or over, as defined, from \$40 to \$50 a month.

Under the Saskatchewan Social Aid Act, 1959, new Mothers' Allowances Regulations (O.C. 860/59) were introduced, effective April 1, 1959, and gazetted June 5, 1959. The major changes or additions are briefly as follows:

- The payee must be at least 18 years of age at the date of commencement of the allowance.

- An allowance may be paid for a period of not more than three months after a father ceases to be incapacitated to give him time to become readjusted to his changed status and to make plans for his re-employment.

- Allowances may be paid to either the father or to the mother, if the father is incapacitated and living at home.

- Allowances may now be paid to a deserted mother even if a court order for support has not been issued against the father and without the submission of evidence that support cannot be obtained, if the Director of Public Assistance is of the opinion that no effort should be made to obtain support from the father.

- Provided a year has elapsed since she and her husband ceased to live together, a mother separated from her husband by a separation agreement is otherwise eligible for an allowance on the same basis as a mother judicially separated, but for whom no waiting period is required; in either case evidence must be submitted that she is unable to obtain full support from her husband.

- A mother who has several children is not entitled to an allowance unless she is prepared to meet the eligibility requirement for all of her children.

- In addition to allowing a total exemption of up to \$60 a month from income for actual expenses when a mother must employ someone to look after the children while she is working, a similar exemption may now be allowed while she is taking training to enable her to become independent. An exemption up to \$1 a day per child or a total exemption up to \$60 a month

may also be allowed for day care of the children outside the home.

In Manitoba, The Social Allowances Act, 1959, which is to be effective on proclamation, includes provision for allowances to needy mothers with dependent children, formerly authorized by the Child Welfare Act. Coverage is extended in a number of ways under the new Act: the age of children who may benefit has been raised from under 15 years to under 16 years or, at the discretion of the Director, over 16 years but under the age of 18 years; the period of desertion after which a mother may qualify for an allowance is reduced from four years to one year; also, allowances may now be granted to a mother whose husband has been sentenced to imprisonment for one year or more and to an unmarried mother caring for two or more of her children in her own home.

LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED

Loans made under section 16 of the National Housing Act have been used extensively in financing low-rental housing projects for the elderly. The interest on long-term low-interest loans made under section 16 to limited-dividend companies providing low-rental housing was increased from 5 1/8 per cent to 5 7/8 per cent per annum, computed semi-annually and not in advance, through Order-in-Council 59-1290 gazetted on October 14, 1959.

During their 1959 sessions the Legislatures of Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia passed legislation affecting accommodation for the elderly; changes in regulations were made in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario in late 1958 or early 1959.

NOVA SCOTIA

Standards affecting the care and accommodation of persons in municipal homes in Nova Scotia are outlined in Regulations issued in 1959 under the Social Assistance Act, 1958. Compliance with these Regulations is a condition for payment of maintenance grants under the Act, which also provides for periodic visits to municipal homes by boards of visitors.

Under the Regulations, the buildings, grounds, equipment and furnishings of all municipal homes are subject to the approval of the Minister of Public Welfare, as are plans for new homes. Minimum floor space per resident in bedrooms and sitting rooms, and minimum temperatures permissible during the day and night are specified. The Regulations also govern sanitation, nutrition, admissions and record keeping. For example, all rooms must be kept clean, well ventilated and free from odours; the nutritional value of the food served must meet the requirements of Canada's Food Rules and a report concerning the food and its adequacy is to be submitted periodically to the Minister by the Provincial Nutritionist; persons requiring care in a general or mental hospital and those likely to

be incorrigible or disturb other residents may not be admitted to homes.

The supervisor of a home must be a mature person with the qualifications necessary for managing it. Homes with 15 or more residents are to include among their staff a member who is a registered or practical nurse, and those with more than 15 residents must have a supervisor on duty at all times. Senior staff members are required to attend staff training sessions and conferences held periodically by the Department of Public Welfare. Each home must have a qualified medical practitioner as its physician; his duties include examination of residents on admission, treatment of any patients in need of medical care and periodic visits to the home to ascertain that adequate medical care is being given to the residents.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Through Order-in-Council 58/1017 published in the New Brunswick Royal Gazette of January 7, 1959, Regulations issued in 1953 under the Health Act to provide for the licensing, inspection and control of private places offering accommodation for more than two aged or infirm persons have been extended to cover private nursing homes. A nursing home is defined as a home offering accommodation for more than two aged or infirm persons, with registered nurses available on a 24-hour basis.

Under a more recent amendment, Order-in-Council 59/470, gazetted on August 18, 1959, the Minister of Health and Social Services of New Brunswick may authorize the use of the third floor of a home for the accommodation of ambulatory residents if an automatic sprinkler system approved by the Fire Marshall has been installed. Accommodation was formerly limited to first and second floors only.

QUEBEC

An Act to Facilitate the Establishment of Homes for the Aged was passed by the Quebec Legislature in December, 1958. The Act, which was passed with a view to encouraging the establishment of homes near their own communities for aged couples who are unable to keep house for themselves through "lack of the necessary assistance", authorizes the Government to appropriate \$15 million for the construction and maintenance of homes and housing projects. The province itself may erect, furnish and maintain such accommodation, or it may enter agreements and make grants for this purpose to persons, societies and corporations.

Administration of the Act is the responsibility of the Department of Social Welfare; the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations to ensure the safety and salubrity of accommodation and the comfort of its occupants.

ONTARIO

In Ontario, under the Homes for the Aged Act, 1955, the basis for provincial contribution towards the cost of constructing a municipal home for unorganized territory within a territorial district has been changed by an amending Regulation, O.R. 313/58, gazetted on January 10, 1959.

The provincial contribution was formerly based on the portion of costs allocated to the school sections in unorganized townships according to their assessments for school purposes. It is now based on an assessment allowance for the unorganized area, which is arrived at by multiplying the per capita assessment of the organized municipalities in the district by the population of the unorganized portion. A share of construction costs is then allocated to the unorganized area in the same proportion as its assessment allowance bears to the total assessment of the district, and is paid in full by the Province.

Penalties for delay in application by municipalities for provincial maintenance grants on behalf of homes for the aged and boarding homes are also introduced in these Regulations. If application is not made within three months of the first of the month to which it relates, the provincial grant for a home for the aged is reduced from 70 per cent to 25 per cent of net operating and maintenance costs. For boarding homes the reduction is from 70 per cent of maintenance costs paid by the municipality or \$52.50 per month, whichever is the lesser, to 25 per cent of these costs or \$18.75 per month, whichever is the lesser.

MANITOBA

A new Elderly Persons Housing Act to replace a statute of the same title passed in 1956 was enacted at the second 1959 session of the Manitoba Legislature.

Under this Act, grants amounting to one third of the costs of construction or acquisition and reconstruction are to be made to municipalities and non-profit or charitable organizations erecting housing units for the elderly. These grants may not exceed \$1,667 for each two-person unit and \$1,400 for single person units. Formerly they amounted to 20 per cent of costs, not to exceed \$1,000 for two-person units and \$700 for single units. A "housing unit" is defined in the Act as accommodation for one or two elderly persons, with separate kitchen and bathroom facilities.

For hostel accommodation the grant remains at one third of construction costs but the maximum has been increased from \$850 to \$1,200 per bed for the construction of a new hostel and from \$400 to \$700 per bed for the renovation, repairs or acquisition and reconstruction of an existing building. A hostel is defined as accommodation in which three or more

elderly persons use the kitchen and bathroom facilities or bathroom facilities only. The number of infirmity beds for which a grant is made may not exceed one fifth of the total bed capacity of a hostel.

A municipality or organization requesting a grant is now specifically required to contribute 10 per cent of the total cost of the project, or 5 per cent of construction costs plus the necessary land with the municipal services available which are required under the Regulations. Also, plans for the construction or renovation of a building must be approved by the Minister of Health and Public Welfare, and, when accommodation is provided by a charitable or non-profit organization, that organization must be approved by the Council of the municipality in which the accommodation is located.

In addition to making grants, the Province may now guarantee the repayment of the principle and interest on loans made to municipalities or organizations for providing accommodation.

Under the Manitoba Act also, the income of single persons or couples may not exceed five times the rental of the assisted accommodation which they are to occupy, not including the rental value of services and equipment supplied; formerly the income limits were the same as those under the federal Old Age Assistance Act, inclusive of assistance.

As before, occupancy is limited to persons aged 65 and over or persons of that age and their spouses, except that in cases of need, persons aged 60-64 may now be admitted with the written permission of the Minister of Health and Public Welfare.

The statute provides for the appointment of a Director of Housing and a Supervisor of Elderly Persons Housing and Institutions. Regulations may be made setting standards "for the conduct, administration, and treatment of, and in, hostels and elderly persons housing units, " prescribing rentals to be charged, governing registration of residents and record keeping and prescribing the services to be available to land used for accommodation,

ALBERTA

In March, 1959, a new Homes for the Aged Act becomes law in Alberta. The Act authorizes what are termed "master agreements" between the Minister of Public Welfare and one or more municipalities wishing to provide low-rental housing or homes for ambulatory older persons.

Under these agreements the Province will bear the costs of constructing, equipping and furnishing homes or housing projects while the participating municipalities must provide and service the required land, and agree to bear the net costs of operation. (A municipality with residents in a home in which it is not participating under an agreement is nevertheless

required to share any deficits arising out of the operation of the home.)

The projects are to be operated by provincially incorporated foundations. Members of a foundation are appointed by the Province and by the municipalities that are parties to the master agreement, with municipal representation being limited to council members; representation of contracting municipalities on the board of directors of a foundation is as prescribed in the agreement.

Provincial grants may be made under the Act to municipalities contributing to the maintenance of elderly persons in housing projects and private or municipal homes; the amount of these grants may be determined by the Minister of Public Welfare but in no case may they exceed 80 per cent of the amount contributed by the municipality. For a grant to be paid the elderly person must have resided in the municipality receiving the grant for 12 of the 24 months previous to his admission to the home or housing project, without assistance from public funds.

While the licensing of "private" homes remains a municipal responsibility within the framework of the Home for the Aged and Infirm Act, the Province may make regulations fixing licence fees, setting the form of licences and prescribing books and records to be kept by such homes. Regulations may also be made governing the appointment of directors, boards of management, officers and employees of foundations, prescribing the form and content of master agreements, governing the equipment and furnishing of homes and units built under the Act and outlining the manner of computing the cost of maintaining persons in them.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Through an amendment to the British Columbia Welfare Institutions Licensing Act, which provides for provincial licensing and inspection of welfare institutions, municipalities are made responsible for the investigation of applications for licences. They are to report to the Welfare Institutions Board as required by it, and perform any additional duties that it may direct by regulation, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The provisions of the Act extend to any shelter, institution or boarding home in which food and lodging are provided, with or without charge, to two or more aged or infirm persons receiving an old age pension or some form of public assistance.

4. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE,
MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES, AND LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED, 1958.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

An amendment to the federal Unemployment Act enacted in December, 1957, that repealed the requirement that federal reimbursement be made only in respect to aid to recipients in excess of .45 per cent of the provincial population became effective January 1, 1958. The federal Government now pays to provinces which have signed agreements under the Act 50 per cent of the total costs of assistance for the needy unemployed, with some exclusions, such as aid to recipients of mothers' allowances and certain other costs. Two more provinces entered the plan in 1958, bringing the total participants to nine.

The municipalities have in turn benefited from the unemployment assistance program. As provinces have entered into agreements with the federal Government, they have reduced municipal financial responsibility for general assistance. In April, 1958, Alberta amended The Public Welfare Act to reduce the municipal portion of relief payments from 40 to 20 per cent. Early in 1958, also, Prince Edward Island reduced the municipal obligation in that Province from 50 to 25 per cent. Under a Regulation in Ontario (O. Reg. 10/58), the municipal payment was reduced from 40 to 20 per cent. Nova Scotia, in the new Social Assistance Act effective May, 1958, provided for the assumption by the Province of a portion of the costs formerly borne entirely by the municipality; the municipal share is now one third of the assistance costs and one half of the administrative costs incurred in providing this assistance. The Government of British Columbia announced that, effective September 1, 1958, the municipal share of the costs of social allowances would be reduced from 20 to 10 per cent, to be calculated on a basis of pooled welfare costs. As part of the new system of payments, the Province has taken the further step of abolishing municipal residence requirements.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba adjusted municipal payments early in 1956 and 1957, respectively. In Newfoundland, where relief costs are borne by the Province, local governments are not affected, and in New Brunswick, where the Province does not participate in local relief programs, the municipalities benefit from federal funds to the extent of 50 per cent of their expenditure on assistance.

In Newfoundland, effective July 1, 1958, a Social Assistance Board, to consist of the Director of Social Assistance and at least two other persons, will perform several functions previously the responsibility of the Director. The Board receives all applications for social assistance,

determines eligibility and sets the amount of the allowance. Also, the rates for food for emergency assistance under The Social Assistance Act were raised, effective January 1, 1958, from \$15 to \$20 a month for the first adult, from \$5 to \$10 for each additional adult, and from \$5 to \$8 for each child. These were further amended, effective July 1, 1958, to \$8 for each child under 16 years and \$10 for each child 16 or over. Monthly food rates for other categories were raised to \$25 for the first adult, \$20 for each additional adult, \$12 for each child 16 or over and \$8 for each child under 16.

In Nova Scotia, the Social Assistance Act, 1958, repealed and replaced both the basic Poor Relief Act and the Social Assistance Act, 1956. The new Act does away with the concept of local responsibility under the Poor Law and for the first time authorizes provincial aid to municipalities for assistance costs. As noted above, the Province reimburses the municipal unit to the extent of two thirds of the cost of assistance granted under the Act, including expenditure for maintaining persons in need in a municipal home, and for one half of the administrative expense involved in providing assistance to persons in need. Further, it reduces the general residence requirement to one year from a former two years.

Several important revisions were made in the Regulations in Ontario under The Unemployment Relief Act, a statute which will remain in effect until The General Welfare Assistance Act, 1958, scheduled to replace it, is proclaimed. An amendment in January, 1958 (O. Reg. 10/58), removed the distinction between employables and unemployables in so far as eligibility for relief is concerned. As a result, municipalities may include in their claims for reimbursement the amount of aid paid to persons who are employable but unable to find work. Also, Regulations gazetted March 8, 1958 (O. Reg. 51/58) set forth the conditions under which a post-sanatorium allowance may be given where the former patient is in needy circumstances; the Province will reimburse the municipality for 80 per cent of the amount given up to \$60 a month for a person who resides alone or \$44 a month for a person who is a member of a family. Regulations gazetted June 7, 1958 (O. Reg. 140/58) prescribe certain standards for nursing homes and authorize the Province to pay 80 per cent of the monthly amount granted of \$80, whichever is the lesser, for the care of a person in need who is in a nursing home. Protection of individual rights was made in the amendment to the Regulations gazetted June 14, 1958 (O. Reg. 147/58), by which a municipality is forbidden to print for public distribution, or cause to be printed, broadcast, or posted up the name of any person eligible for or receiving relief.

The General Welfare Assistance Act, passed by the Ontario Legislature early in 1958, will on proclamation replace The Unemployment Assistance Act. The new Act will empower a county, with the approval of the Minister of Public Welfare, to appoint a municipal welfare administrator to administer assistance in all local municipalities within the county, although any local municipality having a population of more than 5,000 may, by agreement with the county and with the approval of the Minister, appoint a welfare administrator to administer welfare independently of the county. The Regulations when issued will cover classes of persons

eligible for assistance, the manner of calculating assistance, residence requirements and other matters.

Unique in Canada, Ontario's The Homemakers and Nurses Services Act, which became effective August 1, 1958, makes provision for provincial financial aid towards homemaker or nurses services to families with children where such aid will enable the children to remain in their own homes, or to persons who, with such care, may remain in their own homes. The service, which is given on a means test basis by the municipality, is under the general direction of the Director of Homemakers' and Nurses' Services of the Department of Public Welfare. Municipalities may make their own arrangements for staff, for whom training courses are to be provided by the Department. The Province reimburses the municipality for 50 per cent of the costs of service up to a given maximum.

In addition to the changes in aid to municipalities, Alberta in the 1958 amendment to The Public Welfare Act, repealed the clause which permitted the municipality to collect from an indigent person, from his estate or from persons responsible for his support, the amount of aid given to him.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

A number of provinces made changes in their mothers' allowances programs during 1958.

The Mothers' Allowances Act, 1958, of Alberta, effective as of April 1, 1958, which superseded the previous Act, made changes in financing, administration and coverage. The costs of allowances and administration are now borne entirely by the Province; formerly the municipality was responsible for 20 per cent of the costs of allowances. The Act is administered by the Pension Board, established under The Widows' Pensions Act, rather than by the Superintendent of Mothers' Allowances as under the previous Act. Rates of allowances have been raised for a mother and one child to \$70 a month with a family maximum of \$185 a month.

Coverage was extended to a divorced or separated mother, to a mother whose husband is serving a term of imprisonment of two years or more and to a mother who has been living in marital relations with the father of her children for at least two years prior to his death, desertion, imprisonment or committal to a mental hospital. Formerly, mothers in the latter category could qualify for allowances only in the case of death of the father, and only if the union had been of at least five years' duration immediately prior to his death.

Several provinces have raised their rates of allowance: Newfoundland, under Regulations to The Social Assistance Act published March 4, 1958, effective January 1, 1958, increased the monthly food allowance for the first adult from \$20 to \$25, and the food allowance for

each child from \$5 to \$8. The food allowance payable for a disabled father in the home was raised from \$10 to \$20 a month. Regulations published June 25, 1958, effective from July 1, 1958, increased the monthly food allowance for a child 16 years or over to \$12.

Prince Edward Island amended the Regulations under The Mothers' Allowances Act in May, 1958 to increase the monthly rate for a mother and one child from \$25 to \$45 and the family maximum from \$50 to \$75. Nova Scotia amended the Mothers' Allowances Act to raise the family maximum from \$80 to \$90. Quebec raised the amount payable for the second and subsequent children from \$3 to \$10 by an amendment to the Needy Mothers' Assistance Act in February, 1958, effective March 15, 1958. Saskatchewan's basic rate for a mother and one child was increased from \$40 to \$60 and the family maximum from \$90 to \$150 or, if there is a disabled father in the home, from \$100 to \$170 (O.C. 2393/57 gazetted January 10, 1958, to be effective from November 1, 1957).

Manitoba (Manitoba Regulation 19/58, March, 1958) made increases in amounts for food, clothing, rent, and other budgetary items, the amount being varied according to the age of the children and the number in the family. The monthly food allowance for an adult and one child 12 to 18 years of age is \$43 and the clothing allowance \$10, with additional amounts granted for the remaining items. The former rate was \$51 monthly for a mother and one child, a sum which included food, clothing, rent and operating expenses.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by amendments to their Acts repealed their citizenship requirements, thus reducing the number of provinces retaining a citizenship requirement to three. Nova Scotia also reduced the residence requirement from three years to one year, bringing to six the number of provinces having a one-year residence requirement.

The Minister of Health and Welfare of British Columbia announced that from September 1, 1958, all mothers' allowances were to be discontinued and aid given to needy mothers as to other needy persons under the social assistance program. This is in keeping with the trend over the past several years to assist, where possible, needy mothers under the social assistance program rather than under the mothers' allowances program.

LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE AGED

During their 1958 sessions the Legislatures of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta made changes in legislation affecting living accommodation for the aged, and New Brunswick announced new regulations. The purpose of these amendments was generally to raise provincial contributions on behalf of care for the aged through increased capital grants or maintenance payments.

Under the Social Assistance Act, 1958, Nova Scotia will for the first time reimburse its municipalities for two thirds of their expenditures

for the maintenance of needy persons in municipal homes. This statute also grants the Governor in Council the power to make regulations governing standards in municipal homes; these may apply to buildings, furniture, equipment, staff and other matters relating to the care of persons, and may also provide for the inspection of the homes and specify the classes of persons to be admitted to them. Residence requirements under the Act have been reduced from two years to one year.

Another new feature of the legislation is the provision for the appointment of a five-member board of visitors, one of whom must be a woman, for each home. Three of the five are appointed by the local municipal council and two by the Province. They are to visit the home four times annually and report on their visit to the municipal council and to the Minister of Public Welfare, and may at any time be requested by the Minister to visit a home and report to him about its administration and standards of care.

Regulations under the New Brunswick Health Act providing for the licensing, inspection and control of 'private places' offering accommodation for more than two aged or infirm persons were gazetted on October 9, 1958 as Order-in-Council 57-948. Those applying for a license under the Regulations are required to submit floor plans and a full description of a home, and to obtain certificates of approval from the Provincial Fire Commissioner and the District Medical Health Officer or a sanitary inspector, as well as the written approval of the Town Planning Commission. The license, which is renewable annually, may be cancelled for failure to provide proper care and maintenance or for failure to comply with the Regulations. Standards or requirements contained in the Regulations cover a number of points including minimum staff, heating, bathroom facilities, floor space per resident, and location of beds.

Extensive amendments have been made in Ontario to The Homes for the Aged Act, 1955, and Regulations, which govern the municipal homes which all municipalities except those in territorial districts are required to provide for the care of their older people. The share of net operating and maintenance costs of municipal homes borne by the Province under this Act has been increased from 50 per cent to 70 per cent. The provincial share of the costs to the municipalities of maintaining aged persons in small approved proprietary boarding homes as an alternative to care in municipal homes has also been increased from one half of net maintenance costs or \$37.50 per month to 70 per cent of these costs or \$52.50 per month, whichever is the lesser. Capital grants equalling 50 per cent of construction costs, which formerly could be paid only for newly constructed homes and for additions to existing homes, may now also be made for the purchase and alteration of a building for use as a home, and for the alteration of an existing home or its grounds.

The Ontario Charitable Institutions Act, 1956, and Regulations which provide for provincial supervision and inspection of charitable institutions and for capital and maintenance grants to them, have also been amended to increase the provincial contribution to the maintenance of residents of these institutions. Instead of the former payment of \$8 per

month for each institutional resident, the Province now contributes 75 per cent of the amount paid by the organization responsible for an institution for the maintenance of each resident. The contribution is based on the average daily cost to the organization of maintaining a resident during the previous calendar year or \$3.30 daily per person, whichever is the lesser. This change, however, does not apply to children's institutions.

The amending Regulations under The Homes for the Aged Act were gazetted on June 14 as O. Reg. 148/58 and those under The Charitable Institutions Act on August 2 as O. Reg. 199/58.

The Manitoba Social Assistance Act, 1956, has been amended to provide additional aid to older persons requiring institutional care. As a result of the amendment of April, 1958, the Province now reimburses the municipalities for 80 per cent of any expenditures which they may make at their discretion for supplementary assistance to persons receiving Old Age Security, Old Age Assistance, Blind Persons' Allowances or Disabled Persons' Allowances; this aid may include care in boarding or nursing homes.

In Alberta changes were made in The Home for the Aged or Infirm Act, 1955, which provides for provincial capital grants to municipal homes, provincial sharing of the costs of maintaining older persons in homes for the aged, and municipal licensing of homes. Through the amendment of April, 1958, the capital grant for newly constructed municipal homes, formerly amounting to the lesser of \$750 per bed or one third of construction costs, was increased to a flat rate of \$1,500 per bed. Also, a new clause provides for aid towards the renovation of a building to be used as a home, amounting to \$750 for every 200 square feet of occupied floor space or one third of construction costs, whichever is the lesser. An additional amendment now makes it possible for a group of municipalities to form a company and co-operate in the construction and operation of a home; formerly a grant could be paid only for a home whose title was vested in a single municipality.

The proportion which the Province will contribute on behalf of a person maintained by a municipality in a home for the aged or infirm has also been increased from 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the cost to the municipality, within maximum amounts set by the Province.

As a result of changes in the formula for financing general assistance in British Columbia, as noted above, the proportion borne by the municipalities for the maintenance of needy older persons in institutions and boarding homes under the Social Assistance Act has been reduced to 10 per cent and municipal residence requirements removed.



